

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | 7:00-8:07 p.m.

Presiding: Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos | Minutes: Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos called the Associated Student Government Student Senate meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

A point of order was raised when the initial roll included a member who had not yet taken the oath of office. The Senate briefly recessed to correct the roll-call sequence and then reconvened.

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>
Karth, Kari A. - Graduate Senator*	X		
Kopko, Raven R. - Computer Science & Engineering Senator	X		
Rodelo, Ramon - Biological Science Senator†	X		
Washington, Darius C. - Health Science Senator	X		
Webb, Connor G. - Social and Behavioral Science Senator		X	
Wilson, Logan - Senate Leader	X		
Gonzalez, Alyssa Yee - Montrose Senator‡	X		
Dieterichs, Paul R. - Music Senator‡	X		
Himes, Ben D. - Mathematics & Statistics Senator‡	X		
Gallegos, Gabby D. - Language, Literature & Mass Communications Senator‡	X		

* Senator Karth had been selected previously and was sworn in and added to the roll at the beginning of New Business.

† Senator Rodelo was present but was omitted from the initial oral roll; his presence was corrected during the first roll-call vote.

‡ Senators Gonzalez, Dieterichs, Himes, and Gallegos were appointed, sworn in, seated, and added to the roll later in the meeting.

Quorum was established with four sworn voting senators present at the initial roll call; Senator Webb was excused.

III. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Senate Leader Logan Wilson moved to amend the agenda by adding the swearing-in of Kari Karth at the beginning of New Business and Senate Resolution 27-01 at the end of New Business. The motion was seconded.

Action: The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

Action: The previous Senate meeting minutes were approved without objection.

IV. Public Input

No public input was offered.

V. Executive Reports

Student Trustee Danica Kremidas

The Student Trustee was excused. President Elijah Lorica read her written report.

- Introduced herself as a senior studying exercise science with a biology minor and noted service as a student ambassador and CMU Dance Team member. Dance practices may prevent regular attendance at House and Senate meetings, though she plans to attend biennial meetings and remain available during office hours.
- Reported that the August 13 Board of Trustees meeting included continuing Faculty Handbook revisions, discussion of campus AI use, fall enrollment updates, recognition of a CMU athlete traveling to Slovakia for the Women's World Wrestling Championship, and the pilot Presidential Fellow mentorship program involving OT graduate student Olivia Reed.

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- Reported work on the ASG website, social media, and staff profiles. Members should submit a short biography and an existing headshot or attend scheduled headshot hours the following week: Monday 5:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday 1:00-3:00 p.m., or Wednesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Explained responsibility for House, Senate, and biennial minutes; distribution and website posting of meeting records; and assistance with website work. Members were invited to ask questions about records or related processes.

Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari

- Requested volunteers for the August 27 tailgate, the kickoff for CMU's new Nike collaboration. Volunteers were asked to meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Park parking lot to assist with identification checks and wristbands.
- Announced that information about the External Committee would be emailed. The committee will help plan and support events such as Mav Awards and Safety Day and was tentatively expected to meet Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Reported work with student-fee-funded organizations on the biennial process. The CFO will manage budget documentation, communicate with clubs seeking funding, and draft legislation for funding requests brought before the Senate.

President Elijah Lorica

- Emphasized the Senate's responsibility to represent students and ASG's system of checks and balances. The administration will focus on transparency, integrity, inclusion, adherence to governing documents, and accountability, including the grievance process when necessary.
- Reported issuing an executive order for the prior day's Sweet Success event because the expenditure was below the \$100 threshold. Future ASG operational expenditures above \$100 and constitution changes from student-fee-funded organizations will be submitted to the Senate as required by the governing documents.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Asked senators to communicate absences or scheduling conflicts to the Vice President or Senate Leader and emphasized participation in campus events so constituents can see and contact their representatives.

- Reported that the Internal Committee's first meeting was planned for Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. Senators are required to serve on a committee. The committee will address the Constitution, Bylaws, and policies as ASG prepares proposed governing-document updates for the spring student-body vote.
- Announced a forthcoming form for name tags, T-shirts, and polos and requested responses by the end of the following week.

VI. Branch Leader Reports

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Reported that the House held its first meeting on August 24 and swore in a Representative for Disabled Students and a Representative At Large. Seven House vacancies remained.
- Reported that the House adopted the biennial evaluation metrics and expected the resulting budget legislation to reach the Senate around December.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Welcomed senators to the new session, requested assistance with the August 27 tailgate setup beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m., and announced that senator office-hour tracking would begin the following week.
- Previewed the evening's senator appointments and constitution reviews and invited members to contact him by phone or email with questions.

VII. New Business

A. Oath and Addition of Kari Karth to the Roll

Kari Karth, who had been selected previously as Graduate Senator, took the ASG oath of office. Senate Leader Wilson moved to add Senator Karth to the roll. The motion was seconded and approved without objection.

B. Appointment of Alyssa Yee Gonzalez as Montrose Senator

Gonzalez described beginning at CMU at age fifteen, spending a year at the Montrose campus, and living in Olathe while attending both campuses. She emphasized the Montrose campus's distinct, age-diverse community and the need for stronger community, events, resources, and representation for CMU's sister campus.

Senate Leader Wilson supported the appointment based on a recommendation from the previous Montrose Senator, Gonzalez's dual-campus perspective, and the resource gap he had observed between the campuses. No additional discussion was offered.

C. Appointment of Paul Dieterichs as Music Senator

Dieterichs, a junior commercial music major and drummer, described broad involvement across music ensembles, administrative and teaching experience, and work as The Criterion's accuracy manager. He sought to improve awareness of ASG and funding opportunities within a department that had lacked consistent Senate representation for several years.

Senate Leader Wilson supported the appointment, citing Dieterichs's knowledge of the department, leadership contacts, and ability to communicate music-program needs during the biennial and future funding requests. No additional discussion was offered.

D. Appointment of Ben Himes as Mathematics and Statistics Senator

Himes, a second-year pure and applied mathematics student, described education and mentorship as central interests. He tutors local high-school students through a nonprofit program and hoped to use ASG to advocate for mathematics students and build enthusiasm for the field. He disclosed association with the Math Club and stated that he would abstain when a conflict required it.

Senate Leader Wilson and Senator Darius Washington supported the appointment, citing Himes's recommendation from the prior Mathematics and Statistics Senator, commitment to the department, and record of applying himself to student activities. No additional discussion was offered.

E. Appointment of Gabby Gallegos as Language, Literature, and Mass Communications Senator

Gallegos, a second-year mass communications major and international studies minor, described experience in speech and debate and involvement with The Criterion, Horizon Magazine, and Mav Media. She sought to address the prior disconnect between ASG and campus media organizations, advocate for department students, and explain ASG decisions more clearly to constituents.

Senate Leader Wilson and Senator Washington supported the appointment, citing Gallegos's communication skills, reliability, and unusually broad ties to student media organizations. No additional discussion was offered.

Appointment Roll-Call Record

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Karth</i>	<i>Kopko</i>	<i>Rodelo</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Result</i>
Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5-0; appointed
Paul Dieterichs	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	4-0-1; appointed
Ben Himes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	4-0-1; appointed
Gabby Gallegos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	3-0-2; appointed

Senator Webb was excused and did not participate in the appointment votes.

F. Oath, Seating, and Amendment of the Roll

After all four appointments passed, Senate Leader Wilson moved to administer the oath to the new senators. The motion was seconded and approved. Student Supreme Court Chief Justice Ady Bautista administered the ASG oath of office to Senators Gonzalez, Dieterichs, Himes, and Gallegos. The senators received their placards and were seated.

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved to add all four newly sworn senators to the roll. The motion was seconded and approved without objection.*

G. Cultural Inclusion Council Constitution

Senate Leader Wilson moved to suspend the rules and read only the title of the document. The motion was seconded and approved, and the title, Constitution of the Cultural Inclusion Council, Colorado Mesa University, was read into the record.

President Lorica read a statement on behalf of CIC leadership summarizing the revision. The document was reorganized to clarify CIC's mission, membership and hiring, leadership duties, stipends, attendance and performance expectations, meetings, budgeting, amendments and ratification, ethics, grievances, removal procedures, vacancies, and ASG oversight provisions. Senate Leader Wilson asked why the revision was being considered before the biennial; Vice President Gallegos explained that CIC and Rowdy Wranglers had identified significantly outdated constitutions. No further discussion was offered.

H. Rowdy Wranglers Constitution

Senate Leader Wilson moved to suspend the rules and read only the title of the document. The motion was seconded and approved, and the title, Colorado Mesa University Rowdy Wrangler Constitution, was read into the record.

President Lorica read a statement from Rowdy Wranglers President Sydney Fonte explaining that the revised office-hour requirements were intended to reflect the organization's expanded daily responsibility for the live mascot's feeding, shelter, health, veterinary care, training, transportation, event preparation, and year-round welfare. The revision was also intended to document the actual workload more accurately during budget and organization-support evaluations. No additional substantive discussion was offered.

I. Senate Resolution 27-01 - Associated Student Government Budget

Senate Resolution 27-01, sponsored by Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith and President Elijah Lorica, was read into the record. The resolution carried a fiscal impact of \$130,154 and enacted the allocations approved through the 2024-2025 biennial process.

<i>Budget</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
ASG Operational Budget	\$63,121
Mesa Fund	\$1,019
Regional/National Competition Fund (RNCF)	\$8,729
Student Controlled Reserve Fund (SCRF)	\$41,463
Transportation Budget	\$15,822
Total	\$130,154

Senator Washington asked how the figures were determined. The response clarified that they were the ASG allocations approved through the prior biennial process and represented the current budget structure. Senator Dieterichs sought confirmation that the amounts had been approved previously and were not being independently recalculated during this vote. No further discussion was offered.

Legislative Roll-Call Record

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>CIC Constitution</i>	<i>Rowdy Wrangler Constitution</i>	<i>Senate Resolution 27-01</i>
Senator Paul Dieterichs	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Senator Gabby Gallegos	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senator Ben Himes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain
Senator Kari Karth	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senator Raven Kopko	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senator Ramon Rodelo	Yes	Yes	Yes

Senator Darius Washington	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senator Connor Webb	Excused	Excused	Excused
Result	6-0-3; passed	8-0-1; passed	8-0-1; passed

***Action:** The Cultural Inclusion Council Constitution, Rowdy Wranglers Constitution, and Senate Resolution 27-01 each passed by roll-call vote.*

VIII. Senate Discussion

House Resolution 27-01 - Biennial Budget Process

Senate Leader Wilson moved to suspend the rules and read only the title of House Resolution 27-01. The motion was seconded and approved. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada then summarized the resolution and supporting biennial materials. No Senate vote was taken because the resolution had already been adopted by the House and was presented for Senate discussion.

- The House adopted standardized evaluation criteria and weights, a funding rubric, and a presentation template to make funding decisions more consistent, transparent, quantifiable, and defensible.
- Effectiveness of programming and justification of future budgeted funds each carry 30% of the score. The remaining criteria address prior use of funds, adherence to CMU policies and governing documents, and positive representation of CMU. Each House representative will score each criterion from zero to five, producing a weighted score out of 100 with written comments.
- Senate Leader Wilson supported the added structure based on prior biennial experience and noted that it would assist both Senate review and the Board of Trustees' eventual consideration.
- Organization leaders will submit rough drafts, meet with the CFO and House Speaker, and present to the House on Tuesdays beginning September 29. The House plans to ratify the budgets November 3, with a dispute process continuing as needed through November 17; the final budget legislation will reach the Senate after Thanksgiving.
- Senator Gonzalez confirmed that senators do not complete the organization forms; organization leaders do. Her question about Montrose led to clarification that Montrose campus fees may fall outside ASG's jurisdiction, with additional guidance available from university budget or student-services leadership.
- President Lorica reported that organization leaders had received their materials and budgets and identified September 4 as the rough-draft target, September 25 as the final-submission deadline, and September 29 as the first biennial presentation date.

IX. Announcements

- Senate Leader Wilson reported that CMU's new club-management software was being implemented and offered assistance to Montrose and Grand Junction clubs needing information. Questions may also be directed to ASG or the Student Life Office.
- Senator office hours begin the following week. Senators are expected to complete two hours; attendance at an approved event may count for one hour.
- Committee assignments and startup work were underway. A Judicial Committee would be formed in the coming weeks to consider a prospective Student Supreme Court Justice following a presidential recommendation.

- Senator Washington announced a Health Sciences event planned for October 26, with a second semiannual event tentatively planned for March 9. He requested ASG participation and connections to relevant departments, clubs, clinics, hospitals, and community partners. Senator Karth offered to help connect OT and PT programs.

No further announcements were offered.

X. Adjournment

Vice President Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

